

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

-----X	:	
EMMA GOIDEL, et al.,	:	
	:	
Plaintiff(s),	:	
	:	21-CV-7619 (VSB)
-v-	:	
	:	<u>CASE MANAGEMENT PLAN</u>
	:	<u>AND SCHEDULING ORDER</u>
AETNA, INC.,	:	
Defendant(s).	:	
-----X	:	

VERNON S. BRODERICK, United States District Judge:

Pursuant to Rules 16-26(f) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Court hereby adopts the following Case Management Plan and Scheduling Order:

1. All parties [consent _____ / do not consent X] to conducting all further proceedings before a United States Magistrate Judge, including motions and trial, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(c). The parties are free to withhold consent without adverse substantive consequences. ***[If all consent, the remainder of the Order need not be completed at this time.]***
2. The parties [have X / have not _____] engaged in settlement discussions.
3. This case [is X / is not _____] to be tried to a jury. *
4. Except as provided by Rule 15 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, no additional parties may be joined after 30 days from the entry of this order.
5. Except as provided by Rule 15 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, no additional causes of action or defenses may be asserted after 30 days from the entry of this order.
6. Initial disclosures pursuant to Rule 26(a)(1) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure shall be completed no later than 2/22/22. ***[Absent exceptional circumstances, within 14 days of the date of the parties' conference pursuant to Rule 26(f).]***
7. All fact discovery is to be completed no later than 6/22/22. ***[A period not to exceed 120 days unless the Court finds that the case presents unique complexities or other exceptional circumstances.]***
8. The parties are to conduct discovery in accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil

* To the extent some or all of Plaintiffs' claims are governed by ERISA, Aetna maintains that Plaintiffs are not entitled to a jury trial.

Procedure and the Local Rules of the Southern District of New York. The following interim deadlines may be extended by the parties on consent without application to the Court, provided that the parties meet the deadline for completing fact discovery set forth in ¶ 7 above.

- a. Initial requests for production of documents shall be served by 3/4/22.
 - b. Interrogatories shall be served by 3/4/22.
 - c. Depositions shall be completed by 6/22/22.
 - i. Absent an agreement between the parties or an order from the Court, depositions are not to be held until all parties have responded to initial requests for document production.
 - ii. There is no priority for depositions by reason of a party's status as a plaintiff or a defendant.
 - iii. Absent an agreement between the parties or an order from the Court, non-party depositions shall follow initial party depositions.
 - d. Requests for admissions shall be served no later than 5/13/22.
9. All expert discovery, including disclosures, reports, production of underlying documents, and depositions shall be completed by 8/19/22. ***[The parties shall be prepared to describe their contemplated expert discovery and the bases for their proposed deadlines at the initial conference.]***
 10. All discovery shall be completed no later than 8/19/22.
 11. The Court will conduct a post-discovery conference on September 2, 2022 at 4:00 pm. ***[To be completed by the Court.]*** No later than two weeks in advance of the conference, the parties are to submit a joint letter updating the Court on the status of the case, including but not limited to whether either party intends to file a dispositive motion and what efforts the parties have made to settle the action. If either party contemplates filing a dispositive motion, the parties should be prepared to discuss a briefing schedule at the post-discovery conference.
 12. Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, the joint pretrial order and additional submissions required by Rule 6 of the Court's Individual Rules and Practices shall be due 30 days from the close of discovery, or if any dispositive motion is filed, 30 days from the Court's decision on such motion. This case shall be trial ready 60 days from the close of discovery or from the Court's decision on any dispositive motion.

13. Counsel for the parties propose the following alternative dispute resolution mechanism for this case:

- a. _____ Referral to a Magistrate Judge for settlement discussions.
- b. _____ Referral to the Southern District's Mediation Program. [*Note that all employment discrimination cases, except cases brought under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, 29 U.S.C. § 201 et seq., are designated for automatic referral to the Court's Alternative Dispute Resolution program of mediation. Accordingly, counsel in such cases should select 13(b).*]
- c. _____ Retention of a private mediator.

The use of any alternative dispute resolution mechanism does not stay or modify any date in this Order.

14. The parties have conferred and their present best estimate of the length of trial is 5-7 days.

SO ORDERED.

Dated: February 14, 2022
New York, New York



Vernon S. Broderick
United States District Judge